including for instance previously observed packets associated with a particular host, previously observed packets associated with a particular application, packets observed during particular time windows, results of previous attempts to modify the firewall policy associated with particular hosts and/or applications, etc. In an example, these modules are software process, modules or routines. In an alternative embodiment, the modules can be partly or fully implemented in hardware. The PMA 140 preferably utilizes existing firewall process 136 components or modules, which typically includes some form or arrangement of firewall policy 312, firewall packet inspector 314, and firewall ~~filter 318~~ filter 316.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line ~~39~~ 29 through page 14, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

In an example, the secure transceiver 302 via the network interface 134 receives a time window request for a particular user and application from the FFC 108 in order to add a new application to the user's/customer's firewall policy as described above, the PMA controller 304 checks to see if the time window is available, and if available the PMA controller 304 sends an acknowledgement to the FCC 108 and likewise schedules the time window. If the time window is unavailable, the PMA 140 sends this information to the FFC 108 so that the FFC 108 can request a different time window. The PMA 140 may optionally include information on currently available time periods so as to aid the FFC 108 in selecting another time window, in which case the FFC 108 may then optionally keep a record of this information so that it can consult this record when sending future time window requests to the PMA, 140 in order to select or generate time windows which are likely to be currently unscheduled and thus acceptable to the PMA 140. For example, the secure transceiver 302 via the network interface 134 is in communication with the FFC 108 to send and receive messages containing the above-mentioned information and acknowledgements to/from the FFC 108. Information from the secure transceiver 302 is communicated to the PMA controller 304. The PMA controller 304 communicates with both the policy modifier 306 and the blocking history checker 308. When the time of a scheduled time window arrives, the PMA controller 304 communicates this to the policy ~~modifier 304~~ modifier 306, which communicates with the firewall packet inspector 314 to observe the packets flowing through the firewall associated with the user/customer, presuming that these should be associated

4